

JPRS 78437

2 July 1981

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2358



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Indexes to this report (by keyword, author, personal names, title and series) are available from Bell & Howell, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

2 July 1981

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2350

CONTENTS

AFGHANISTAN

Declarations Mark Founding of National Fatherland Front (KABUL NEW TIMES, 16 Jun 81)	1
Founding Congress	
Speech by Karmal	
Fundamental Statement	
Progress in Women's Rights Extolled (Wilfred Burchett; PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Mar 81)	9
Anahita Thanks Cuban Women (KABUL NEW TIMES, 5, 25 May 81)	15
Message to Cuban Women's Federation	
Implementation of Equal Rights, by G. Rasoul	

IRAN

Armed Forces Heads Discuss Bani-Sadr Dismissal, Role of Military (Afzali, et al. Interview; KEYHAN, 13 Jun 81)	17
Search for Solution to Inflation and High Prices (BAZAR-E RUZ, 8 Jun 81)	25

IRAQ

Briefs	
Housing Program Planned	26
Iranian Commandos Recruited	26
Baghdad Electricity Contract	26

KUWAIT

Briefs	
Newspaper Receives Loan	27

LEBANON

Habib's Mission Discussed (AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 25-31 May 81)	28
War Deemed Unlikely, by Nihad al-Mashnuq Russians To Enter Mediterranean	
Alternative to Cairo Agreement Called for by Junblat (AL-MUSTAQBAL, 30 May 81)	37

PERSIAN GULF AREA

Briefs	
Aid to African States	39

QATAR

Briefs	
Polyethylene Plant	40

SYRIA

Muslim Brotherhood Member Discusses Anti-Regime Activities, Government Crackdown (Eric Rouleau; LE MONDE, 13 May 81)	41
--	----

DECLARATIONS MARK FOUNDING OF NATIONAL FATHERLAND FRONT

Founding Congress

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 16 Jun 81 pp 1, 4

[Text] Kabul, June 16 (Bakhtar)--The Founding Congress of the National Fatherland Front was officially opened yesterday in Kabul after full preparations by the High Commission elected by the Conference of the National and Patriotic Forces.

The work of the congress started with recital of a few verses from holy Koran and playing of the national anthem.

At the outset, Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC, President of the Revolutionary Council and President of the RC Presidium, talked about the great and historic importance of the establishment of the front and then officially declared the congress open.

The congress was attended by 940 representatives of the party, social organisations and national and patriotic forces, tribes, nationalities and national and social personalities.

Then the composition of the Presidium of the founding congress, which was proposed by the High Commission for Preparing for the congress,

was read out and approved unanimously.

The congress was presented with the report prepared by the High Commission for the Founding Congress. According to this report, the official credentials of all the representatives and the legality of the congress were ensured to take major decisions regarding the political and social life of the people.

Afterwards, Karmal delivered the fundamental statement of the congress which was endorsed by the participants.

He was followed by Dr Saleh Mohammad Zeary, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the PDPA CC and member of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, who delivered his speech on the Charter of the National Fatherland Front.

Afterwards, speeches were delivered on the fundamental statement and the Charter by the representatives of social organisations, tribes, and nationalities and social personalities. Then a resolution was passed unanimously on the fundamental statement and the Charter.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Likewise, the congress issued messages addressed to the industrious people of Afghanistan and the peoples of the region.

Then the National Committee of the Front was elected unanimously from among the representatives. Afterwards the committee held its first session.

Then, according to the provision of the Chart-

er, Dr Saleh Mohammad Zeary, member of the PDPA CC Politburo, Secretary of the PDPA CC, and member of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, was elected Chairman of the National Committee of the National Fatherland Front. Sulaiman Layeq, member of the PDPA CC, member of the RC and Minister of Tribal and Nationalities affairs as Deputy Chairman, Dr Saed Afghani, President of the High Council of Scholars and Clergy as Deputy Chairman, Najmuddin Kawyani, President of the Organisational Affairs of the PDPA CC and member of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council as Deputy Chairman, Sayyed Akram Paigir, President of the Documents and Liaison of the PDPA CC as Deputy Chairman, and Mohammad Naseem Joya as Secretary.

Afterwards the National Committee elected 22 persons as members of the Executive Committee of the front.

EXECUTIVE

The names of the members of the executive committee are as follows in the alphabetical order.

Asadullah Habib, President of the Union of Writers and Poets of the DRA.

Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA CC Politburo, President of the Organisation for Peace, Friendship and Solidarity and the Democratic

Organisation for Afghan Women.

Burhan Ghiasi, member of the PDPA CC, and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Organisation for Afghan Youth.

Sulaiman Layeq, member of the PDPA CC and President of the High Jirgah of Tribal Affairs.

Dr Saed Afghani, President of the Islamic Affairs of the DRA and President of the Council of Scholars and Clergy of Afghanistan.

Dr Saleh Mohammad Zeary, member of the PDPA CC Politburo and Secretary of the PDPA CC.

Satar Purdeli, President of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the DRA.

Dr Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, President of the Central Council of the Agriculture Cooperatives.

Ustad Ghausuddin, President of the Union of Artists.

Dr Haider Masoud, President of the Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.

Mawlawi Mohammad Salem Elmi, member of the Council of Scholars and Clergy of Afghanistan.

Mehr Chand Verma, General President of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the DRA and member of the Economic Consultative Council of the DRA.

Najmuddin Kawyani,

member of the Central Committee in charge of the Organisational Affairs of the CC.

Noorullah Taluqani, president of the publications department of the National Defence Ministry.

Dr Mahmoud Habibi, Kabul Governor.

Prof Ali Mohammad Zahnia, member of the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan and professor of the Kabul University.

Abdul Rahim Hatif, a social personality.

Fateh Mohammad, a social personality.

Sayyed Akram Paigir, in-charge of documents and liaison of the PDPA CC.

Mehrabuddin Paktiawal, First Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Dr Mohammad Mosa Nuristani.

Karmal, accompanied by the members of the High Commission, arrived at the hall of the Salam Khana Palace at about 9 a.m. and was warmly welcomed by the audience with enthusiasm and long clappings.

After the recitation of a few verses from holy Quran and the playing of the national anthem, Karmal in his inaugural speech said: "The tradition of holding national jirgahs has been inherited by us from our fathers. It helps our national and democratic revolution."

"It is obvious", he went on, "that the National Fatherland Front is the evolutionary and progressive sequence to previous jirgahs and loya jirgahs of the people of Afghanistan."

"I am sure", he said, "that the National Fatherland Front will unite all the progressive forces towards the establishment of a progressive, peaceful and socialist society."

Then, Karmal declared the work of the congress open with the playing of the national anthem.

Following the national anthem, the proposal of the High Commission was read out by Dr Assadullah Habib and endorsed unanimously.

Afterwards Najmuddin Kawyani, member of the PDPA CC and member of the High Commission, presented the report of the High Commission, which was endorsed unanimously.

STATEMENT

Then, the session continued with its revolutionary work under the Chairmanship of Noor Ahmad Noor, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, and Vice-President of the Revolutionary Council. He requested Karmal to deliver the fundamental statement of the congress.

The fundamental statement, which deals with the aims, form and political importance of the front and its mission to build a new society in Afghanistan, was warmly welcomed

and applauded by the participants of the congress.

In one part of the fundamental statement, it is said that "our party and all the noble and free people attach exceptional importance to the congress. The main outcome of the congress should be the establishment of the National Fatherland Front, the front which is established for the first time in the long history of our beloved country, the revolutionary Afghanistan."

"This front will be comprised of all the political and social organisations and the representatives of all the national and democratic social strata of our society. It will prepare the possibility for all the patriots to channel their efforts towards the construction of a blossoming Afghanistan."

After a short break, the congress continued its work under the chairmanship of Dr Anahita Ratebzad.

Then Dr Zeary delivered a detailed speech about the draft Charter of the Front and the way it may carry out its tasks.

Afterwards, Ahmad Ali Kargar, member of the Revolutionary Council, Mohammad Afshari, Khwaja Natas, and Abdur Rahim Haq Mohammad Saleh Elmi, Reza and Abdur Rahim Latif spoke on behalf of the DRA Trade Unions, Council of Scholars and Clergy of the DRA, the Agricultural Cooperatives and the

people of Kandahar respectively.

In the afternoon session, which started under the Chairmanship of Assadullah Habib, President of the Union of Writers and Poets of the DRA, Rashid Jalya, Wakil Hedayat, Wasif Bakhtari, Nafisa Mobarez and Prof Jailani Arez talked about the basic statement on behalf of the Union of artists, the Nangarhar province, the Union of Writers, and Poets, the Democratic Organisation for Afghan Women and the Kabul University respectively.

Likewise, Burhan Ghafari and Sayyed Abas Masoud also spoke.

RESOLUTION

They were followed by Naseem Joya, who read out the draft resolution of the congress on the Charter, which was endorsed unanimously.

Then, Wasokht, representative of the people of Badakhshan province, Khosrau, representing the Democratic Organisation for Afghan Youth, Dr Haider Masoud, President of the Union of Journalists, and Noor Mohammad Ghamjan, professor of the Kabul University, and Dr Shormeh, representing the people of Nuristan, delivered speeches, supporting the resolution of the congress.

Later the meeting of the congress was held under the Chairmanship of Dr Sayeed Afghani, President

of the Islamic Affairs Department and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Scholars and Clergy.

Speakers at the meeting were: Mohammad Ali Zahra, representative of the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan, Noorullah Taluqani, president of the publications department of the National Defence Ministry, Mohammad Karim Karimi, President of the Chambers of Commerce of Kabul, representing the national traders and patriotic craftsmen of Kabul, Mohammad Omar, representing the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organisation, and Senator Ibrahim from the Herat province. All of them spoke in support of the fundamental statement.

Dr Zeary requested Dr Afghani to propose the members of the National Committee of the front.

Ninetyfive members of the National Committee were proposed and were unanimously elected. Then, the committee held its first meeting and elected the Chairman, Deputy-Chairmen, Secretary and the Executive members.

The report of the meeting was read out to the congress by Dr Zeary.

KARMAL'S GREETING

Congratulating the Chairman and members of the Executive, Babrak Karmal said: "During the sensitive moments of the na-

tional and social liberating movement of the country, on behalf of of you, esteemed members of the congress and the honourable guests, the PDPA CC, the RC, the RC Presidium and with permission of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on behalf of the council of Ministers and on my own behalf, I convey my most sincere thanks to the National Committee which has elected our dear comrade Dr Saleh Mohammad Zeary as Chairman. Likewise, on behalf of the above authorities and on my own behalf, I convey sincere congratulations to the National Committee of the Vast National Fatherland Front, the Executive members and Comrade Saleh Mohammad Zeary."

Speech by Karmal

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 16 Jun 81 p 1

[Text]

KABUL, June 16 (Bakhtar)-- Following is the text of the opening speech of Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC, President of the Revolutionary Council and President of the RC Presidium, at the Founding Congress of the National Fatherland Front.

Esteemed delegates of the Founding Congress of National Fatherland Front,

It is an honour for me to inaugurate the Congress of the National Fatherland Front at this sensitive stage of the history of Afghanistan

The tradition of national jirgahs (assemblies) has been inherited by us from our ancestors which serves the national and democratic revolution of Afghanistan. The National Fatherland Front is clearly the developed and progressive stage of the former jirgahs and the loya jirgahs of the people of Afghanistan.

We extend our fraternal congratulations to all the delegates, organizations and all patriots of Afghanistan on holding this grand Congress of the National Fatherland Front.

NEW LIGHT

I am sure that the National Fatherland Front will unite all the progressive forces in the task of establishing a society of peace and progress, a new society of prosperity and people's power.

I am sure that the light of knowledge, justice, brotherhood, equality and progress will be illuminating the villages, houses, camps and the dark caves. The National Fatherland Front is duty-bound to unite the masses of the people and tribes of Afghanistan.

I am confident that the National Fatherland Front will succeed in uniting the revolutionary solidarity movement of Afghanistan with the revolu-

tionary movements of the world and will impart a unity to the feelings and expression of our brave people in the interest of the worldwide movement against imperialism, hegemonism and reaction and for peace, independence, freedom, democracy and social progress.

Let us join together our hands, fists and fingers for the honour, dignity, prosperity and freedom of people for creating a peace-loving, prosperous and worthy Afghanistan, having its due place in the world.

The people when united are invincible and will undoubtedly attain victory.

Fundamental Statement

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 16 Jun 81 pp 1, 4

[Text]

KABUL, June 16 (Bakhtar).— Following is the text of the fundamental statement of the Founding Congress of the National Fatherland Front, which was read at the Congress by Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC, President of the Revolutionary Council and President of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Esteemed delegates,

Brothers and sisters,

On behalf of the High Commission, which was elected by the national and patriotic forces of Afghanistan

on 6 of Jaddi (December 27) for the preparation and convention of the Founding Congress, I congratulate you and welcome you on the occasion of the commencement of the work.

Our party and all our noble and free people attach exceptional and extraordinary importance to this congress.

The major result of the work of the congress should be the formation of the National Fatherland Front which is being created for the first time in the proud

and ancient history of our beloved and revolutionary country, Afghanistan.

This front will comprise the proud and active system of political and social organisations and will be formed by the representatives of all national democratic classes and strata of our society.

This will make it possible to rally and unite the energy, zeal and revolutionary fervour and efforts of all patriots of the country in the common task of the building of a new and blossoming Afghanistan.

BASIS OF UNITY

The National Fatherland Front is the practical manifestation of the unity of all social forces and groupings, nationalities, tribes, and the followers of different religions residing in our single country, the beloved Afghanistan.

The basis of such unity is provided by the alliance of workers and peasants as the socio-political pillar of our revolutionary state.

This alliance, the only confident and firm basis, guarantees the real unity of all the national and patriotic forces of our country.

Thus, a new step is being taken in the context of expanding and deepening of the glorious Saur Revolution and the revolution gains further in scope and dimensions.

We point out with satisfaction and gratitude that our friends abroad, where the systems and unions of political and social organisations of the masses have been existing for long and are successful in their action, have correctly and properly evaluated and praised the convocation of the congress and all the affairs related to the formation of the National Fatherland Front in the DRA. Vivid testimony of this fact are messages and friendly and fraternal greeting sent by the social and people's organizations of the Socialist and non-aligned countries.

Karmal added: "In these moments, at the actual and potential will of the people of Afghanistan, the Congress of the Vast National Fatherland Front has imparted credit and heavy responsibility to the leading body, of the National Fatherland Front to fulfill."

"The Founding Congress is fully assured that the leading body of the congress performs its duties according to the objective and organisational principles of the front, rendering its efforts in consolidating the gains of the revolution and ensuring of peace and security in the country. Similarly, the leading body of the congress will try to form the National Front all over the country in the organisations concerned, gathering all noble, patriotic, progressive and reformist people around it to carry

out their relentless struggles against the exported bands from the abroad", he said.

"The executive of the National Committee of the Vast National Fatherland will also relentlessly work and struggle for the political and socio-economic development of the country and will provide for formation of the local governments jirgahs (assemblies)", he added.

"Similarly, the leading body and all organisations of the Vast National Fatherland Front are duty-bound to explain to the people of Afghanistan about their real friends and the sworn enemies of the people", Karmal declared.

Referring with appreciation to the revolutionary personality of Dr Zeary, Karmal congratulated him on election to the post of the chairman of the National Committee of the front.

MESSAGES

Afterwards, the message of the congress addressed to the noble people of Afghanistan was read out by Sayed Ekram Paigee, alternate member of the PDPA CC and Deputy Chairman of the Front, and the message of the congress addressed to the noble people of the region was read out by Sulaiman Layeq, Minister of Tribes and Nationalities and Deputy Chairman of the Front, which was

unanimously approved after voting.

The congress ended amid scenes of enthusiasm and in an atmosphere of unity around 7 p.m. with the playing of the national anthem.

In honour of the congress, the RC headquarters and the Salam Khana hall were decorated with the national as well as party flags, revolutionary slogans and photographs of the freedom-fighters, constitutionalists and reformists in favour of the progress and development of Afghanistan and workers, peasants and other craftsmen of the country.

Some streets and memorial minarets of the Kabul city were also decorated with national and party flags.

The newspapers welcomed the occasion in editorials and articles and printed photographs and biographies of the freedom-fighters, stressing the importance of the front as a proud gain of the new and evolutionary phase of the Saur Revolution. Describing the congress as valuable, the papers have expressed confidence that the front will perform an important part in the unity of the forces, organizations and all of our people under the PDPA leadership serving the homeland and the people.

Permit me to express on behalf of the delegates of the congress sincere and heartfelt gratitude to these organizations and to assure them that their valuable and noteworthy experiences in ensuring solidarity and unity of the vast masses of the people for the all-sided progress of the society will be carefully studied and learnt by us and that we will make use of them with initiative and creativity in accord with the specific conditions of Afghanistan.

Doing away with backwardness and achieving of national and social progress is an urgent and general need and an earnest of the society. Similarly, it is clear that the practical realization of this task is connected with and calls for the unity of all advocates of progress, all patriots of the country, namely, the broadest masses of the people, the decisive majority of our compatriots.

EXPERIENCES

Our beloved country, Afghanistan, is in urgent need of such a unity for solving of its vital problems. It is in this context that we speak of using the experiences of our friends toward achieving the unity of broad masses and giving a definite organizational shape to this unity.

Dear delegates,

The convocation of the

congress and the formation of the National Fatherland Front in our country is the logical consummation of the great work done by the High Preparatory Commission and all the patriots who warmly welcomed the initiative of the delegates of the conference of national and patriotic forces.

At the same time, the formation of the front is not only indicative of the successful accomplishment of the related organizational tasks but also a manifestation of the really great and extensive results that have accrued to our revolution, our state and our society as a whole under the confident leadership of the PDPA after the Saur Revolution, especially in its new phase. The broad reflection of the decisions of the National and Patriotic Forces' Conference concerning the formation of the National Fatherland Front among the masses of the people and the social circles of our country is a testimony to this fact.

The news of this decision spread all over the country. People came to know of it everywhere and it received an extensive, warm and positive reaction. Hundreds of thousands of the illustrious and noble sons of our country supported the formation of the front and, since the 6th of Jadd last year (December 27, 1980) when the Conference of National and Patriotic forces elected the Pre-

delegates' commissions of the front's congress dozens of huge public meetings have been held whose participants issued declarations in favour of the initiative for the formation of the National Fatherland Front and expressed their complete readiness to participate in its activities and for getting united for the sake of prosperity and progress of the people and the country.

Thus, the broadest social circles and strata of the people of Afghanistan have expressed their readiness for the new and better form of unity around the programme of national and democratic transformations which was put forward by our party for the constitution of a prosperous and blossoming society.

REVOLUTION'S AIMS

Esteemed delegates,

The formation of the National Fatherland Front in the DRA has its origin in the national and democratic essence of the revolution in our country and is called for by the need of the successful implementation of the objectives and tasks of the revolution. For a better understanding of this fact, it must be noted what kind of revolution

the Saur Revolution is: as a national and democratic revolution. What are its aims and tasks, why and for what did the revolution take place? To answer these questions, we refer to the documents and basic sources of information of the party and the state.

It is pointed out in the Fundamental Principles of the DRA and the theses of the PDPA Central Committee that the Saur Revolution being the natural result of the long struggle of the working people of Afghanistan for genuine emancipation from cruelty, from the colonialists, the professors, the ruthless exploiters and from backwardness has set itself the general democratic tasks, i.e. the eradication of all feudal and pre-feudal vestiges in national and social relations, limiting the land ownership of big landlords, distribution of lands to the landless peasants and farmers with small holdings and to agricultural workers, development of national economy, raising the living standard of the people, promotion of the national culture of the people living in Afghanistan and democratisation of socio-political life.

At the same time, our revolution possesses national and anti-imperialist char-

acter and reflects the national characteristics, deep religious sentiments, and the diversity of the customs and traditions of the different peoples, nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan. Achieving these goals is serving the interest of the broadest strata of the society and the decisive majority of the people.

STATE'S BASIS

Thus the national progress of the country can be achieved through consistently and completely carrying out vast democratic transformations, that is such transformations which directly benefit and serve the broad masses of the working people.

The national and democratic character of our revolution also defines the type and form of the state which has come into being as its result.

The basis of this state will be formed by the alliance of workers and peasants, supported widely by all real patriots and worthy ones of our beloved homeland, intellectuals, soldiers and officers of the armed forces, craftsmen, nomads, patriotic religious leaders and the national industrialists and national merchants.

PROGRESS IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS EXTOLLED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Mar 81 pp 16-18

[Article by Wilfred Burchette: "Women on the Move"]

[Text] Kabul--Soraya says she has no other name because she has never married. Plump, with her head crowned by short hair and with a friendly expression on her face, Soraya is the dynamic president of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan (DWO).

Like her comrade in struggle, Minister of Education Anahita Ratebzad, she was one of the six founders of the feminist movement of her country.

Like Anahita, she is also a member of the central committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Energetic, she obviously possesses strong personality, as was confirmed by her torturers to their frustration.

"We had to work in the midst of social backwardness and within a feudal society," she said in reply to my first question on the training they both received. "All the rights of women in the political, economic and human areas were trampled."

It was within this framework of social injustices that Anahita decided to found a democratic feminine organization 15 years ago. There were only seven of them to begin the organization.

"Despite all the difficulties and obstacles created by some governments and the natural difficulties resulting from our customs in a medieval society, we have never lowered our banner of the liberation of women, not even when faced by the enemy or the adversity of social conditions. We have suffered reverses but we have also harvested the triumph of victory."

After long struggles for the right of women to vote and to be candidates, Anahita was elected member of the National Assembly in the first general elections held in Afghanistan. This was due in large part to the women's vote.

"Similarly, the election of Babrak Karmal and other members of the PDPA was due in large measure to the women's vote. That was in 1955, only a few months after our organization was created. We used the parliamentary tribune to promote the rights of women and the struggle against all repressive reactionary forces.

"Of course the reactionaries did not remain idle. They were amazed at the drive of this new feminine force in the country. There was then created a draft bill which forbade young, single women from studying abroad.

"We organized a demonstration of women, feminine university and high school students, who marched from the university and schools to the National Assembly and we occupied all the halls and corridors. When the deputies entered they did not even try to take their seats. They noted that no draft bill which restricted feminine rights would survive, nor would the women allow it, and for that reason the draft bill was abolished."

After this victory, the rightist forces used violent methods. They hired the services of thugs to throw acid into the faces of young feminine activists, they beat them and denounced them to their parents.

"The fact that our movement continued to grow was intolerable for the rightists. They recognized in us a powerful force for the PDPA."

On Three Fronts

"During a parliamentary debate, the three deputies of the PDPA, including Anahita, were savagely beaten to the extent that they left them abandoned in the Chamber so that they would die there."

In view of the people's protest, the government mobilized the army, which used their bayonets against the demonstrators to prevent their march. However, the demonstrators advanced, pushing against the soldiers and the bayonets until they reached the gathering point in front of the hospital where the three deputies were staying.

"In that way we showed that it was possible to win a victory at the electoral polls, in the Parliament and in the streets."

Another memorable demonstration took place when the then vice president of the United States, Spiro Agnew, arrived from Indochina to justify the Nixon Government policy of bombing Vietnam.

The PDPA and the women's organization carried out a great demonstration which extended from the airport to the residence where Agnew would stay.

The visitor's automobile was pelted with tomatoes and in the end the U.S. vice president had to leave the country without seeing the local politicians, with the exception of those who went to welcome him at Kabul Airport.

"Do not think that all this was easy," says Soraya, "It is not simple in a society such as ours, where as an example of what it was to trample human rights, the men of the family could decide the fate of a child about to be born while it was still in the mother's womb. The child could be sold after the sale date and the price was established. It could be in trade or for cash, depending on whether it was a girl or boy. If it were a girl, she could be sold to anyone who was between 40 and 70 years-of-age at the time of the sale.

"It was considered normal for women to perform the most brutal work and they were deprived of everything that had to do with human rights."

Soraya recalls that she once published an article in PARCHAM, the party weekly, in which she described how nursing mothers of a remote region of the country traditionally sold their milk to the families of the aristocracy, while they fed their children with commercial products.

"A group of men of the region assaulted the editorial offices of the newspaper, demanding my presence, not because they thought that I had revealed a shameful transaction but because I had discovered a tribal secret and they feared the tribe would lose the monopoly on the sale of mother's milk. Such were the problems we had to face."

The DWO was always at the side of the PDPA, first supporting the group which overthrew King Zahir Shah, then betrayed by his cousin and brother-in-law Mohammad Dawud in July 1973, and, obviously, the popular movement against the latter carried out by the party with the help of the army in April 1978.

Feminine Presence

"Of course we had a great participation in the April Revolution," continued Soraya. "The first week we were invited to participate in the administration. Hafizulla Amin, who wielded the real power within the administration of Nur Mohammad Taraki, quickly hastened to destroy revolutionary gains by abolishing all party, union, youth and feminine organizations. He began to destroy everything that had been accomplished up to that time.

"His offensive began when a group of our comrades, including Anahita and Karmal, were sent abroad as ambassadors and then expelled from the Central Committee. It continued with the arrest of key men within the PDPA such as Soltan Ali Keshtmand, now vice prime minister and minister of economic planning and the second figure in importance in the Karmal cabinet; Gen Abdul Lader and Mohammad Rafi'. "A few days later they arrested Karima, wife of Keshtmand, and leaders of the DWO and me. Then there was a wave of new arrests, torture and executions. It was the first time in the history of Afghanistan that women were jailed for political activities.

"The most sincere and honest activists had to go underground in order to save the movement and the Revolution. The majority of them were arrested and Amin arbitrarily changed the name of the group to the Kalkhi Democratic Women's Organization to give the appearance that it was linked with his faction within the party.

After Soraya was arrested together with other comrades, it was decided that the rest should go underground, which was an unimaginable event in Afghan society, since it was unusual for a woman to leave her husband, family, children, studies or employment and simply disappear.

Soraya did not mention it but these activists were forced to torture each other with cigarette burns or electrical shocks to various parts of the body as part of the tortures carried out by Amin's interrogators.

Due to the great wave of protest caused by the arrest of Soraya, an event which was a disobedience of Moslem law, she was released 10 days later to a strict house arrest.

"Ironically, after having given up wearing the traditional chardi, which hides the women's faces in Moslem countries, together with Anahita I found myself obliged to wear it again to hide from the thugs."

The chardi, name given to the veil or mantle which covers women from head to toe and which has been used traditionally by Afghan women, is an unbeatable "untouchable" disguise.

"To maintain contacts, feminine comrades approached me feigning to be beggars or washerwomen and in that way we could exchange information and clothing. At the same time, I was adapting to the language and mannerisms of high society, which made links among various organizations easier.

"After the arrests, Amin noted that the party continued to function and he began to suspect that it was due in part to the action of the DWO. Thousands of women were arrested, many of them our activists, other simply ordinary women without any type of political connections."

Tortures

"The rumor circulated that I had violated house arrest and that the wholesale arrests were for the purpose 'of trying to capture me.' Around that date our network of contacts could function without me, and for that reason I decided to remain at home, dressed normally, to await my captors."

They came looking for her and she was subjected to unimaginable tortures. There were tortures with electrodes fastened to the toes of the feet and the fingers of the hands, there were burns with cigarettes and there was the electric prod.

"What are your relationships with the party and the real activities of the party at this time," she was asked. The only reply they obtained was: "I know nothing."

One single word more could have cost the lives of tens of Afghans. Another seven members of the DWO, who did not have time to go underground, were also arrested and cruelly tortured until they were forced to reveal Soraya's activities.

The fourth night of Soraya's interrogation, the torturers told her that her friends had confessed "that you led the entire operation."

"They dragged in one of my alleged comrades, covered with blood and half dead. She did not have one extremity that had not been beaten. They said, 'Here is one of the ones who denounced you,' We were not able to talk but by her looks at me I knew that she had not betrayed me.

"They dragged her out once more. She had been arrested with her newly born child and later on she told me that during the days the torture lasted the milk she was able to give her child to drink was mixed with blood."

Soraya was transferred to what is known as "the pavilion of death" in the escape-proof prison of Pule Charki, some 20 kilometers from Kabul on the highway that leads to Peshawar. Throughout Kabul and other cities, leaflets were distributed warning the government of the serious consequences that could follow the execution of Soraya.

Once in prison, she was able to establish contacts with the network she had organized and even with comrades who were in the same building, such as Keethmand, who was in one of the most remote and secret cells.

Meanwhile, plans for the overthrow of Amin were continuing and the date planned at first was proposed as 31 December 1979 so as to be able to proclaim victory on 1 January, the 15th anniversary of the emergence of the party.

Karmal and other leaders had returned secretly to Afghanistan around the middle of November and achieved a consensus of the majority of the members of the Revolutionary Council on the need to put an end to the Amin regime, which had assassinated Nur Mohammad Taraki, his principal friend and adviser, while he concentrated all power in his own hands.

I learned from another prisoner of Pule Charki, Sumad Aeher, now chief of National Security, that Amin intended to kill most of the prisoners on the night of 29 December and for that reason the date of the action against his regime was advanced. I ask Soraya if that is true.

"Yes, that is how it was. (25 December an Amin security service group visited the prison and took down the names of a large number of prisoners in each cell. That same night a larger group than normal was taken from their cells to be executed.

"We then learned that mass executions for those who were still alive would be carried out on the 29th, therefore, very early on the 26th we reported what they had planned. We knew that Amin was going to be replaced, but we also know that even one minute before, he could pick up the telephone and order the executions."

Hypocrisy of the West

"Therefore the plans for the overthrow were advanced, and ahead of schedule, our comrades blew up the principal communications center so that Amin was isolated within the presidential palace.

"Our forces went into action at 2200 on the night of the 27th. It was a well-planned operation in which the release of the prisoners within 5 minutes was demanded. Actually, avoiding bloodshed, the operation was delayed between 10 and 12 minutes and none of the prisoners suffered a scratch."

"And now," I asked, "what are the principal tasks?"

"The basic task," answered Soraya, "is to work together with the PDPA in the reconstruction of the party in order to achieve the maximum unity; reconstruct our own feminine organization after the terrible losses suffered, and contribute to having the unions and youth organizations do the same with their own."

"Only then will we be able to accomplish other urgent national tasks such as the literacy campaign and advance slowly to overcome social and economic backwardness."

I asked: "What do you think of the way in which the situation of Afghanistan is being handled in the Western World and the majority of the Islamic countries because of its friendship with the Soviet Union?"

"To us it is clear that some western countries, particularly the United States and Great Britain, are in despair. They have totally and definitively 'lost' Afghanistan. They talk too much about defending 'the rights of Moslems' and they wage a campaign of lies against Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, our faithful friend for almost 62 years. We are very grateful that at the moment in which we most needed the Soviet Union, it came to our aid."

"Carter presented himself as the champion of 'human rights' and 'defender of Islam.' This is a cruel joke. Where was Carter's voice and that of other North American politicians when tens of thousands of our best patriots, including many Moslems, were tortured and murdered?"

"As far as Great Britain is concerned, it invaded our country on three occasions to add it to its empire and it was defeated in all of them. Now they act behind the scenes under the pretext of 'neutralizing' us. We have carried out a revolution. We have defended it with great difficulty. What has taken place is irreversible."

8908

CSO: 4748/2

ANAHITA THANKS CUBAN WOMEN

Message to Cuban Women's Federation

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May p 1

[Text] KABUL, May 25 (Bakhtar)—Dr Anahita Rastehzad member of the PDPA CC Politburo and president of the DOAW, has sent a reply message to Havana addressed to the Cuban Women's Federation.

In the message gratitude has been expressed on behalf of the central council of the DOAW and

all the mothers and sisters of the country for the sincere greetings of the Cuban Federation on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Saur Revolution. Hopes have also been expressed in the reply for further expansion of ties and co-operations between the two organizations.

The Secretariat of the DOAW reported that the

Cuban Federation in a message earlier, had expressed its revolutionary and warm greetings to all the Afghan women and all the united co-fighters who share in a common struggle for a single aspiration and added that the Cuban women know that the role of the Afghan women in their revolution for victory and freedom is unforgettable.

Implementation of Equal Rights

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 May 81 p 1

[Article by G. Rasoul]

[Text]

It is obvious to all that the complex problems of today's world cannot be solved without the help of 50 per cent of mankind, that the active participation of women in work in various spheres of life is a necessary condition for the attainment of political social and cultural progress, that the equal rights of women and men are

not only a matter of social justice, but also, a social necessity.

In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the recognition of the complete equality of men and women was proclaimed in the very first documents of the DRA revolutionary Council immediately after the victory of the

Saur Revolution and particularly its new, evolutionary phase.

The equality of all citizens of Afghanistan before the law without consideration of their racial, national, tribal and linguistic affiliations or sex is ensured by the Fundamental Principles of DRA. The DRA regard women as a

vital social force. With the victory of Saur Revolution specially its new evolutionary phase, Afghan young men and women enjoy all rights and freedoms.

The rights to work, to acquire higher training and education and to meet social needs are ensured by the DRA Fundamental Principles.

The DPA attached great importance to the equality of women with men before the law, and has promoted the role of women in building a new society void of exploitation of man by man.

CONDITIONS

Naturally, women can only participate in social work and can advance professionally on a par with men if state secure conditions whereby their labour duties are harmoniously combined with their duties as mothers. Proceeding from this, Socialist states recognize maternity as a social function of women, provide leave and material assistance for them at childbirth and in the upbringing of children. They have established a vast network of child care establishment such as nurseries, kindergartens, study halls, and semi-board-ing and boarding houses.

These establishments heal effectively with the upbringing and education

of children and exercise social control over their development while their mothers are at work.

In the DRA, all possible efforts are made by our revolutionary Government to widen the role of Afghan women in the social work of the country and in defence of gains of the Saur Revolution and its new phase.

Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC, President of the RC and DRA, Prime Minister, in his speech at the nation-wide conference of Afghanistan's women in November last in Kabul, said: "The democratic movement of women in our country now has the advantage of having in its ranks skillful cadres who are able to take the leadership of vast masses of women".

He added: "The party attaches high value to the role you decent, noble Afghan women are to play in defence of the gains of the revolution".

On the role of Afghan women on strengthening of peace, he said: "We must remember that it is the duty of women as mothers to invariably struggle against genocide, plunder and war for ensuring a stable peace and social justice and the welfare of their sons".

Today, Socialist countries and those countries

that have chosen the non-capitalist road toward social progress and national development, strive continuously to create better condition for women at work and at home.

For example, in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in which the complete equality of women was proclaimed on the first acts of the people's Government in 1945, women play an increasing role in the Social life of the country. In this country, along with equal pay for equal work, they enjoy paid annual leaves on an equal footing with men and benefits help in case of temporary disability due to disease, labour accidents or quarantine, or whenever they have to take care of a member of their family who has fallen ill.

Women in Bulgaria enjoy even better conditions of work-like retirement with pension at an earlier age, with a shorter length of service. This hold good for all women, those employed in agriculture included.

In the USSR also, much is done to help women at home. While mothers are at work, their children stay the care of pre-school establishments.

The experience of the USSR and other Socialist states shows that women's active participation in social work and Government affairs is essential for the society's dynamic economic and social progress.

ARMED FORCES HEADS DISCUSS BANI-SADR DISMISSAL, ROLE OF MILITARY

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jun 81 pp 12, 15

[Interview with Col Afzali, Navy Commander; Col Fakuri, Air Force Commander and Minister of Defense; Col Falahi, Acting Chief of Joint Army Staff; Col Zahirnezhad, Commander of the Ground Forces, Col Foruzan, Commander of the Gendarmerie; and Col Vahid Dastgerdi, Chief of National Police: "In an Interview Held at the Headquarters of the Joint Armed Forces; Military Commanders Declared Their Loyalty to Religious Guardian-Jurisprudence, the Constitution, and the Regime of the Islamic Republic"]

[Text] Military commanders, the commander of the Gendarmerie, and the chief of the National Police, in an interview held at the headquarters of the Joint Armed Forces Thursday afternoon, described the situation at the war fronts and announced their views concerning the dismissal of Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr as commander of the armed forces.

Colonel Falahi, the acting chief of the Joint Army Staff; Colonel Zahirnezhad, the commander of the Ground Forces; Colonel Fakuri, commander of the Air Force and minister of defense; Colonel Afzali, commander of the Navy; Colonel Foruzan, commander of the Gendarmerie, and Colonel Vahid, the chief of the National Police, took part in this interview. First, the chief of the Joint Staff thanked Bani-Sadr for his work.

As regards the dismissal of Bani-Sadr from the position of commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Colonel Falahi referred to Paragraph 3 of Principle 110 of the Constitution and said: One of the duties and the authority of the leadership is as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. In a military sense, the meaning of a commander is contained in the authority conferred to a person for taking upon himself a certain responsibility. Authority is conferrable. The person to whom the authority is conferred is responsible to the person who has conferred upon him the authority. The authority of commander-in-chief of the armed forces was conferred upon Dr Bani-Sadr

by the leadership, but the leadership is still responsible for the armed forces. Last night (Wednesday), this authority was taken away from Mr Bani-Sadr.

Continuing, he said: My Islamic attitude and patriotic conscience dictate to me as the acting commander-in-chief of the Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran to praise Mr Bani-Sadr for his efforts.

Referring to Principle 143 of the Constitution concerning the duties of the military he said:

The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for protecting the independence, the territorial integrity, and the regime of the Islamic Republic and carries out this duty with all its ability without group leanings and under the command of the leadership, the Iranian people, Islam, and God.

In my opinion, the changes in the administration should not affect the mission of the military. /The Iranian Army today is a Moslem, patriotic, committed, responsible, and alert army which believes in Velayat-e Faqih [Religious Guardian-Jurisprudence]// [in boldface] and on this basis, it has reached the highest peak, the participation in the Islamic holy war of the people.

Falahi emphasized that the Iranian army believes in and is loyal to the Constitution, the regime of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic revolution, and Religious Guardian-Jurisprudence.

The acting chief of the Joint Army Staff referred to the meeting of the commanders with the imam and continued: Today (Thursday) we were summoned along with other commanders to the office of the imam of the people. The great leader of the revolution emphasized certain points the most important of which I will mention. The imam said: I endorse you commanders as long as you follow the line of Islam, the Islamic country, and the Constitution. Nothing could threaten you and I assure you that I guarantee the security of you and other combatants because I am a Moslem.

The second point was that he emphasized that we must work to strengthen the unity of all the groups who fight for Islam. He especially emphasized the unit between the military and the army of the pasdaran. Of course, he expressed his satisfaction with the present unity and coordination.

As regards the acting commander-in-chief of the armed forces, he conferred this authority on me temporarily and I am duty bound to brief him at the end of each day on what has been accomplished. The imam stated: As long as the people and I approve of you, you should not hesitate and you should make every effort with strong determina-

tion and more resistance in planning and directing combat operations to drive out the army of transgression and retrieve the occupied lands. The Iranian people support you.

He concluded with praise for the martyrs of the revolution and the forced war. Then Colonel Fakuri, the minister of defense and commander of the Air Force, said:

The military relies on certain principles that if ignored can bring about tragedy. The important points of these principles consist of the absolute loyalty of the army to the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Constitution and absolute avoidance of becoming militantly involved in political issues and becoming in any way political. Another point is that the military must follow the will of the people, which has been crystalized in the Constitution. With these principles, the military must be and remain.

The Main Issue is War

He added: Under present circumstances, the military must focus its attention on the main issue, the war, and no other issue should misdirect its attention. While we gratefully recognize the efforts of Mr Bani-Sadr, which we have witnessed, the military must continue its work and finish its great, historical mission.

He, then, pointed out the duties of the military, which are to defend the territorial integrity of the country, protect the regime of the Islamic Republic, defend the dignity and honor of the Moslem nation, and destroy the aggressors and transgressors. He emphasized that nothing should prevent the military from carrying out its duty.

Fakuri added: The self-sacrificing, brave, and very loyal personnel of the military and other combatants must pay utmost attention to the importance of their work and duties before God, history, and nation. They must employ all their power to save Islam, the revolution, the people, and the country from the present predicament.

Then Colonel Afzali, the commander of the Navy, praised the martyrs of the revolution and the war and said: The Islamic combatants, as the arms of the revolution, are the protectors of the gains and the continuation of the great movement which has risen from the hearts of the Moslem masses of Iran. These great forces are determined to respond positively and in the best possible way to the mission conferred upon them under the steadfast leadership of their revered imam in this crisis.

He added: The presence of millions of our Moslem people on the scene, which was manifested in its unprecedented show of 15 Khordad /5 Jun/ of this year, provided all the armed forces of this country with the necessary spiritual and psychological energy to continue

the battle of right against wrong and made us more determined and stronger than ever before in the pursuit of our sacred goal.

He then announced the combat readiness of the naval personnel to destroy the aggressive Ba'thist forces under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

Afterwards, the military commanders answered questions of correspondents in various areas. Colonel Falahi, responding to a question concerning the significant victories and their relationship with the former commander-in-chief of the armed forces, said: As a responsible person, I have declared my thanks for the efforts of the former commander-in-chief of the armed forces. He both believed in and made an effort to create closeness, coordination, and cooperation between the forces. I am saying this sincerely because he was responsible before the imam as well as before God and the Iranian people. He saw in practice that when there was more cooperation and coordination between the military and the army of the pasdaran the results were more favorable. One of his goals was to regain our motherland. There is no reason for us to say that he did not desire cooperation and coordination between the military and the army of the pasdaran. He made special efforts to do this and my colleagues can verify that.

Answering the same question, Colonel Zahirnezhad, commander of the Ground Forces, said: What the nation, the military, the army of the pasdaran, and other combatants accomplished in dealing with the aggression of Saddam's forces is unprecedented in our history. Be assured that nothing but praise can answer this heroic action of all the armed forces which were supported by the people. In the course of the 18 months before the aggression of Iraq on Iran, which we call the revolutionary period, as well as 6 months before the victory of the revolution, the Iranian army was not in training and was not mobilized. On the other hand, the enemy was continuing its training and mobilization. When Iraq's army attacked Iran by the order of the United States, it apparently possessed armored brigades of various kinds. At the same time, Iran had only a total of 8, which, due to the revolutionary circumstances, had only 20 percent of its equipment and 45 percent of its personnel at its disposal. It was not trained. For this reason, Iraq's attack was able to progress in the first days. In fact, our country was taken by surprise because of the events of the past two and a half years. That is, it did not have a chance. But with the help of the people, the military was able within one month to increase its personnel by more than 100 percent and its equipment by about 100 percent. Furthermore, it was able to stop the large Iraqi army through the force of faith and self-sacrifice one week after the attack and it inflicted such a blow that as a result of one attack, 300 people raised their hands [in surrender]. This created a heroic tradition and proved that all the imperialistic military calculations were wrong. Iraq had hoped

to occupy Khuzestan in one week, but its nose was rubbed into the dirt and it has taken this wish to the grave.

Saddam was so sure of himself that he had called this "Saddam's Qadesiyyeh." You will witness a day when Saddam has fallen and his soldiers all deserted.

Unequal Forces

Colonel Fakuri also responded to that question: When the war started, we had no more than 28 tanks in Khuzestan and in Dezful there were only 8 tanks and 1 cannon which were able to stop the progress of the Iraqi army. In the military history of the world, you will not find another case in which an army facing such great odds has accomplished such a miraculous feat.

From the third day of the war, the Air Force had to directly engage the ground forces of Iraq, something that you do not see anywhere else in the world. The Air Force had to engage in battle with the Iraqi tanks and cannons in order to give the ground forces a chance. You will not find another instance in which an army has fought so bravely.

Fakuri added: Furthermore, we should consider the internal problems of the military before the war, with an economic embargo, and then we can see what a miracle the military has performed. It was asked whether essential changes are to take place in the military. Colonel Falahi answered: We will not make essential changes. No major change has taken place in our mission. Our mission is to destroy the aggressive forces and free the occupied lands. And this mission continues.

He then continued: A series of gradual changes which are completely natural will take place. For instance, a commander of a battalion who is a competent major will be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. This type of change continues naturally and gradually in order to increase the combat capability of our combat groups.

It was asked: What sort of effect will the dismissal of Bani-Qadr from the position of commander-in-chief have psychologically on the combatants at the war fronts? Colonel Falahi answered: I prefer to use the term "taking back the authority conferred" in place of "dismissal." In regards to the psychological effects on the combatants, I must say that today they fight through reliance on God, for God, and out of respect for the religion of Islam and patriotic honor. As I mentioned, none of the changes which take place in the line of command should have any effect on carrying out their mission.

The Role of Arms

Concerning the way arms are secured and their effect on the recent victories of Iran on the front, Falahi said: Of course, all of our needs, especially logistic needs, are important and undeniable. /But the cause behind our victories in the past few months is religious faith combined with expertise. Weapons, of course, play a role, but never a more important role than belief/ [in boldface]. At the present time, the main factors which make up our combat capability consist of faith, bravery, and the expertise of our fighters. Of course, we have shortages which can be alleviated partly through thrift, partly through purchasing from countries which, in my opinion, do not have colonializing intentions, partly through innovations and creativity, and partly through careful repairing, reconstructing, and maintaining systems.

It was asked whether the Iranian army will enter Iraq after driving away the aggressors. Colonel Falahi answered: In all cases, we follow the will of the people. If the responsible Moslem people of Iran wish, we will remain at the borders without any conditions and if not, we will go wherever they want us to.

At the end of the press conference, Colonel Foruzan referred to some of the conspiracies by minigroups to destroy the military at the beginning of the revolution and also enumerated some of the conspiracies of these minigroups who wanted to separate the spiritual leaders from the people.

He said: Many things have happened in the military but the blessings of God and the miraculous breath of the imam have saved the military from all these calamities. Everyone knew that Iraq wanted to invade Iran. But they could not do anything about it. Exactly like a swimmer thrown into the water whose arms and legs have been tied. He knows that he will drown, but he can do nothing. However, a miracle occurred. I wish Iraq had attacked earlier so we could have ended its aggression by today. Now it will end later. Colonel Foruzan added: In this war, Saddam will be defeated and overthrown because the very atmosphere that had caused the disunity of the military united it after the military realized the situation. The imam and the spiritual leadership defended the military everywhere and the military was miraculously saved from all tragedies and today it fights beautifully and marvelously.

One of the correspondents asked: Was the plan for today's (Thursday) successful operation in Darkhoyin foreseen earlier, and is that why this operation was called "Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Imam Khomeini"?

Colonel Falahi said: "Timing operation" is one of the responsibilities of the operating commander and the planning takes place earlier.

This had no connection with the issue of taking back the command from the president. This is a name that the personnel suggested and the commander approved. The same correspondent asked the commander of the Air Force: How many Iraqi planes were destroyed in the attack by Iranian planes on the "K-3" base? Colonel Fakuri said: We do not have exact information in this regard and we are not supposed to have this information. But we think there were about 10 planes. However, according to foreign news agencies--which in certain cases are exaggerated--20, 40, and even 80 planes have been reported. What is certain is that these operations inflicted some damage on the Iraqi Air Force, but the exact extent is not known to us.

It was asked of Colonel Falahi: How do you interpret the bombing of Iraq's nuclear center by the aircraft of the regime in occupied Palestine? Does this indicate that Saddam's regime is bankrupt and will leave Iran? Colonel Falahi answered: I believe this is a fabrication. Either the Iraqi nuclear center was not destroyed, because both sides announced simultaneously that it was, or, if anything was destroyed, it was only a section far from the nuclear facilities. The purpose was to concentrate the attention of the Iraqi people on a political issue and to divert attention to outside the border of Iraq, creating a temporary, artificial unity.

I doubt that this bombing really happened because these facilities are very expensive and, therefore, cannot be on ground level, able to be destroyed by a bomb. They are certainly very deep underground. This could be an excuse for Iraq to leave Iran.

Colonel Falahi was again asked: What will your main activities consist of from now on and how do you foresee the situation at the war front in this connection? He answered: In the long run, we will be the victors in this war because we fight with faith and belief. But now with last night's change, the headquarters of the Joint Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic is the headquarters of the leadership. According to the Constitution, every headquarters is responsible for coordinated planning and supervision--planning the joint operations and the operations of ground, air, and naval forces, the pasdaran army, the moudarrerie, and the people's forces, and coordinating plans and supervising their implementation--in other words, supervising the execution of the orders of the commander of the armed forces. Every order given to anyone of these forces will go through the headquarters of the Joint Staff. In this way, the operations are supervised by this headquarters. No change has occurred in the nature of this headquarters. The duty of the headquarters has been to plan, provide, and regulate the results of the headquarters and this still continues. Since the plans for each force were provided one month before the war began and were announced to them, they themselves are following up these plans. Of course, certain variables will occur which call for revisions. For instance, the ground forces

are responsible for the land of our Islamic nation. Now, every combat element is involved in the fighting--such as the pasdaran army, the gendarmerie, tribal mobilization, unconventional forces, etc. They all fight under the command and supervision of the ground forces. In certain cases, they act independently. The Air Force, according to prior plans, is commissioned to follow a series of plans and operations on the ground and outside the borders. The Navy is responsible for the country's islands and ports. And the Air Force, again, is commissioned to support the ground operations in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Colonel Falahi, in answer to questions on what steps have been taken to reconstruct the military, said: The reconstruction of the military is done through the defense committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the headquarters of the Joint Army Staff. In the military, the foundations are religious faith, expertise, bravery and experience. For example, if a person is experienced but has not had the opportunity to study, we believe in his experiences and talent and we promote him. Everyone is promoted according to his abilities.

Colonel Falahi, in answer to another question concerning the amount of Iranian territory retrieved from the Ba'athist forces, said: We have taken back about 45 percent of the occupied land. Another 15 percent is uninhabitable land which is not controlled by Iraq, but we do not have control over it either. Therefore, only 40 percent of the occupied land is still under the control of the forces of aggression. He added: From Susar region in Kermanshahan to the vicinity of Mehran, our forces are along the borders of the 1975 treaty.

In this press conference, Col Vahid Mastgerdi, chief of the National Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also in response to a question, described the activities of the police in Tehran and other cities and said: All police forces are ready for the orders of the Imam of the people to carry out their duties in the best way possible.

0507

0507: 0046/11

SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO INFLATION AND HIGH PRICES

Tehran BAZAR-E RUZ in Persian 8 Jun 81 p 4

[Text] The struggle against the high cost of living, profiteers and inflation can only be solved through economic means, and even though it is possible to bring profiteers to trial periodically, this does not constitute a basic solution for the issue.

It must be said that any time and for whatever reason the balance between supply and demand of goods--and especially of consumer goods--is disturbed, and when demand exceeds supply, there is a price increase. Of course, in some cases, this artificial balance is destroyed through the establishment of a contrived black market by the hoarders and misusers. Otherwise, if care is exercised, needed consumer goods are produced and provided in sufficient quantities; however, as has been noted, some of these goods have been taken out of the reach of buyers and users by the hoarders, and a false black market has been formed to raise prices.

So what should be done? What is the economic solution to defeat inflation and stop the misusers? Above everything else, one must have the right statistics about consumption and trends in its rise and fall. One should know exactly how much lump sugar, sugar, tea, rice, wheat, corn, fruit, vegetables, animal and vegetable fats, lamb, beef, chicken, eggs, dairy products, cloth, household items, hand-made and machine-made rugs and other types of consumer goods we need, and, for instance, for the next 5 years, with the population increase and the improvement in the people's nutrition in the cities and villages, what is the yearly ratio of increase in consumption. When we acquire these statistics, we shall be able to plan more easily about supplying the needed goods, and we shall also be able to say how much, for instance, of the items needed by the people we can produce domestically and how much we must purchase abroad. This operation would give the opportunity to the government and the economic organizations in charge to easily coordinate the supply and demand of all items and to take the first courageous step in the process of fighting inflation, the high cost of living and profiteers.

But even if we provide for all these elements of the struggle against inflation, there is still another major element left, and that is the education of the public, which, if not based on real faith and knowledge in the struggle against inflation, will bring about disorder and frustrate any efforts against inflation. With respect to consumption, the people must save as much as possible, and in those cases where it is felt that the prices of some items are rising disproportionately, they should abstain from purchasing such goods.

BRIEFS

HOUSING PROGRAM PLANNED--Kuwait plans to build 36,000 new housing units at a total cost of \$4.98 billion in the next five years, the OPEC News Agency reports. Quoting the 1981-86 Plan of Kuwait's National Housing Authority, OPECNA said that 24,995 of the dwellings would be for people in lower-income groups; an additional 7,922 villas and 3,320 apartments would be built for persons in middle-income categories. The Plan also provides for the construction of 186 elementary, intermediate and secondary schools, 101 mosques and various health and recreation centres, the report said. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 24 15 Jun 81 p 2]

IRANIAN COMMANDOS RECRUITED--The Iraqis have started organizing an "army of liberation" by recruiting among the 500,000 Arabs who live in the part of Iranian territory they occupy. They are organized as commandos to operate behind the lines of the Khomeyni forces. [Text] [Paris LE POINT in French 25 May 81 p 80]

BAGHDAD ELECTRICITY CONTRACT--Iraq has signed a contract worth \$70 million with an unidentified foreign company for the construction of six electricity networks in Baghdad, the OPEC News Agency reports. It added that the contract, signed last week by Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals Tahir Tewfik, stipulated that the work was due for completion within 32 months. Six residential districts of the capital will be provided with an electric power network designed to meet any additional consumption up to the year 2000, OPECNA said. Mr Tewfik also signed a second contract, worth \$34.5 million, for the building of five transformer stations over the next 20 months in various parts of the country, the report said. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 24 15 Jun 81 p 2]

CSO: 4300/19

BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER RECEIVES LOAN--Kuwait's Industrial Bank has approved a loan worth KD 2.4 million (\$10 million) to the local daily AS-SIYASSAH, the newspaper reported last week. The credit, which is to help finance an expansion programme estimated at \$17 million, is believed to be the largest ever from a government body to a Kuwaiti publication. The ten-year programme includes construction of a luxurious building and the purchase of sophisticated technology for printing. The report did not specify what conditions, if any, were attached to the loan. But observers commented that, like all other newspapers in Kuwait, AS-SIYASSAH is closely controlled by the state and its reports and commentaries conform with government policy. There are four Arabic and two English-language dailies in Kuwait and about a dozen weeklies, all of which are published in Arabic. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 24 15 Jun 81 p 2]

CSO: 4300/19

HABIB'S MISSION DISCUSSED

War Deemed Unlikely

PARIS-AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 25-31 May 81 pp 7-9

(Article by Nihad al-Mashnuq)

[Text] Soviet and U.S. fleets have taken hold of the missiles crisis, showing the regional parties the limits of their abilities to cause an international confrontation. Then they almost explain to one party after another that an all-out or limited war in the area will not occur. For Washington has no interest in an Israeli military strike that would unify the Arabs against Israel instead of against the "Soviet threat" and consolidate Soviet gains in the area.

Nevertheless, the dialogue between Washington and Moscow has not yet begun. The U.S. refusal to talk with the Soviets will not come to an end quickly after years of unilateral U.S. action in the Middle East. Does this mean that the specter of war is now remote from the area? A substitute war is inevitable. But where? There is a semi-unanimity in the Arab and international community that the war which will actually occur is the war between Lebanon and Israel, that is, the war of the south where the Palestinian Resistance and the Middle East question [converge].

Sarkis ordered the Lebanese army to oppose any Israeli attack on Lebanon or on Syria through Lebanon.

U.S. [special] envoy Philip Habib will be going quite often to the Syrian, Lebanese, Israeli and perhaps the Saudi capitals before he can gain anything in addition to what he did achieve in his mission regarding the Syrian-Israeli missile crisis which has gone into its third week. Habib will be visiting these capitals not because he is fond of the shuttle trips which he has been making--he has visited Damascus, Beirut and Tel Aviv three times so far, not to mention al-Riyadh--but rather because

he has succeeded in achieving the principal objective of his mission, and he wants to hold on to what he has achieved: to prevent a military confrontation between Syria and Israel whether it be an all-out or a limited confrontation that would likely become an all-out war.

The procedural details that pertain to the missiles, to the besieged city of Zahle and to the hills surrounding that city are matters that are subject to debate. Basically, they make up the second item on the agenda of the U.S. envoy.

A few weeks ago such talk would have appeared to be mere phantasy or undue optimism. Although such talk still constitutes cautious optimism, many factors have entered into the missiles crisis, shifting the balance in the crisis away from a military confrontation.

[The following] are among these factors:

First, Syria's deputy minister of foreign affairs met with the ambassadors of the European countries in Damascus last week and informed them that his country did not want an all-out war or a limited war with Israel. But if Israel were to begin a limited war [with Syria], such a war could turn into an all-out confrontation wherein all the Arab countries and other agencies as well would stand alongside Syria.

The minister of foreign affairs of the Netherlands, Mr. Christoph A. van der Klaauw, who was visiting Israel at the time, was notified of this by his ambassador in the Syrian capital. The minister in turn informed Israel's foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir.

This does not signify that there is a change in the firm Syrian position; these are rather statements that are based on components of power that are rarely available to any Arab country other than Syria. For whether or not President Hafiz al-Asad visited Moscow last week--and it is more likely that he did, and AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI had been among the first to indicate that such a visit would likely take place before 2 weeks--Soviet support for Syria in its position on the missiles crisis is firm and clear.

In the summer of 1976 and 1 year and a half after the war in Lebanon the leaders of the Palestinian Resistance issued a challenge for an empty Soviet ship or even for one carrying flour to sail into Lebanese regional waters and raise the Soviet flag to protect the ships that were carrying supplies and war material to the beleaguered Resistance. But the challenge was not met until the missiles crisis. Units of the Soviet fleet then approached the Lebanese regional waters to make the Soviet position on Syria clear to those who had not understood it.

The Soviet command is not doing this only out of love for Syria, but rather out of concern for the interests the Soviets have in the area, which until a short time ago had been construed as an illusion or a violation of others' rights. The Soviet command will not allow anyone

to hurt these interests or those with whom these interests originate regardless of the justifications, Israel and the United States are aware of this fact, and so far they have not been able to overcome it.

No Fear and No Effort

Syria's conduct does not stem from the position of a country that fears or seeks war. The U.S. envoy will find that President al-Asad will not tell him anything new in addition to what he had told him the first time about the fact that the missiles had been placed to defend the forces which the official authorities in Lebanon regard as legitimate. Any withdrawal of the missiles or withdrawal of the Syrian forces from specific locations would be the function of the Lebanese authorities.

According to eastern diplomatic sources there is information circulating in Beirut that Syria can withstand militarily a first strike no matter how harsh that strike would be. This means that the outcome of a Syrian-Israeli confrontation will not be similar to the outcome of the June 1967 war. Also the United States still considers the Syrian regime to be one having a primary role in the political settlement of the Middle East crisis. It considers Syria's role in Lebanon to be a fundamental one in preserving the peace. The United States has no interest in an Israeli military strike against Syria that would get Arab solidarity out of the cycle of its regional differences to oppose Israel instead of opposing the first priority of U.S. policy, which is the "Soviet threat." Such a military strike against Syria would make Syria, even if it were to be victorious, captive to [its] need for Soviet weapons and for political support from Moscow.

This became evident in the most recent U.S. plans that were conveyed by Habib and rejected by Damascus as a solution to the missiles crisis.

One of the principal articles of the plan states that Damascus has to consider the withdrawal of the missiles from al-Biq'a' at a subsequent stage, provided that the SAM missiles which were present with the Arab deterrent forces before the crisis stay. This means an agreement to keep a certain number of missiles in return for the withdrawal of Syrian troops and militias from Saida, the removal of the Zahle siege, the withdrawal of the militias from Zahle and the entry of Lebanese army troops into the city and the hills, provided that Israel pledge to suspend flights by its airplanes over al-Biq'a' and to curtail them over Beirut and south Lebanon. The United States was also pledging that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would pay their share in the budget of the Arab deterrent forces as well as [their contribution to] the fund for the confrontation countries.

Although Washington has rejected this plan, it views Habib's mission as continuing. Washington thinks that Habib's mission must continue as long as there is hope for achieving a development in the negotiations and as long as the concerned parties continue to be receptive to U.S. efforts.

Hence the importance of the Lebanese official role which was not satisfied

with the lack of an announcement of any opposition to the placement of the missiles or to the developments that ensued therefrom, but it rather adopted [the posture of] condemning the Israeli attacks that were the reason behind everything that had happened. Ministerial sources state that President Ilyas Sarkis had issued a written order to the Lebanese army command asking that every branch of the army oppose any Israeli attack on Lebanon or on Syria through Lebanon.

The Eternal Kissinger

On the Arab scene most of the Arab countries expressed support for Syria in the missiles crisis. The Conference of Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which began its meetings yesterday in Tunis, will endorse a unanimous resolution of support which had been expressed on a bilateral basis. However, this does not refute the desire that Arab countries have for reducing the sharpness of the Syrian victory either by means of a political solution to the missiles crisis or by means of a military solution following the severe Arab isolation that Syria has experienced. Besides, they would drag them into war theoretically. If there is some concern for Syria, its purpose is not to achieve Soviet gains.

With its political and economic prestige Saudi Arabia joined the United States on the one hand and Syria on the other to curtail the political and media upheaval in Damascus and to require Washington not to give Israel a free hand at this stage for any excuse. Besides the U.S. envoy's visit to al-Riyadh, the deputy director of the National Guard paid a second visit to Damascus last week, and President Reagan received Prince Turki al-Faysal, the director of Saudi intelligence in the White House.

Amidst all these developments that restored to Syria Arab and international elements it had lost, why does the pursuit of a political solution to the missiles crisis continue to be unyielding?

The U.S. presidential adviser on national security affairs said that the policy of the new U.S. administration in the Middle East is that of Henry Kissinger who was U.S. secretary of state in the Nixon administration. It is Kissinger who takes "credit" for the troops disengagement agreement following the October 1973 war.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser used to talk about the three settlement cycles in the Middle East crisis in which Syria and the Soviet Union bring up the rear and Egypt leads the front. Damascus has suffered from both policies, especially that of Dr Kissinger. If a useful inquiry [is to be carried out] between Damascus and Washington, that would be a review of U.S. policy in the area since the Camp David accords were signed and not since the city of Zahle was besieged.

The dialogue this time would not be bilateral; it would rather be trilateral, with the Soviet Union present. There is no doubt that the Syrian capital no longer has any confidence in U.S. guarantees. If there are to

he guarantees, the Soviet Union must have a part in them. A crisis similar to the missiles crisis that could pull the United States away from its present political plans will not always take place.

So far it does not seem that the United States is prepared to look into the foundations [of the crisis]; it is rather insisting on confining the dialogue to the developments that occurred during the last 2 months.

Second, in Israel, Shimon Perez, the leader of the Israeli Labor party is behaving as though he will be the next ruler of Israel or as though he were the ruling opposition. Therefore, he does not accept having the present prime minister, Menahem Begin, undertake any practical step in the missiles crisis before consulting with him. It seems that the United States is supporting this opinion and endorsing it. Mr Perez thinks that it is necessary to continue providing the opportunity for diplomatic efforts to solve the missiles crisis without having a deadline for that. The Israeli Council of Ministers approved a decision to that effect in its recent session. The U.S. envoy tries to meet with Perez every time he visits Israel.

Begin, the Beginner

The continuation of political efforts is not the only point on which Habib and Perez are in agreement. It rather appears that they are in agreement over the fact that Begin's step to bomb the Syrian helicopters over Zahle was what led to this crisis. Habib and Perez agree that this was a wrong move. Perez expressed this conviction by saying, "The problem includes three subjects about which we disagree with the head of the government. The first is that of considering the fact that a people are subject to extermination to be a reason for entering into a war. We have opposed this notion on the basis of our position which states that no extermination of a people [is being contemplated or suspected]. It is true that the Syrians attack with violence, but this is not to be considered the extermination of a people. Therefore, we refused to enter into a war for the reason which was determined in a non-specific, trivial and superficial manner.

"The second subject is that we were not swept by the unsettling statements that were made by Mr Begin about the fact that we were siding with the Christians. Under the best circumstances we have to say that we are siding with the Lebanese because there are Muslims also in the Middle East. Furthermore, the Christians themselves are not united among themselves to any great degree.

"Third, the statement that we are prepared to defend another nation means specifically formulating a resolution to have the Christians direct the Israeli army and give them the power to decide on the timing of the war." Perez asked what was the justification for putting all the Arab countries in a state of alert? Why did Begin have to project an image of Israel as a country preoccupied with war? Would it not have been possible to provide the Christians with anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down the airplanes?

The statements of Perez do not seem to reflect fear of a military action by Begin that would help him in the elections at the end of next June. [The reason behind Perez's statements] is that he knows that this war would bring Israel nothing but problems. The allies cannot logically justify a war against Syria because Syria, with the approval of the Lebanese authorities, placed defensive missiles on Lebanese territory to protect its own forces. This appears evident in the U.S. envoy's talks with Perez and Begin.

It is true that the three are in agreement over the necessity of restoring the situation to what it was before April 2 (the beginning of the Zahle siege); but this does not mean launching a war and embarrassing the U.S. administration and the Arab countries that are friendly to Washington for the purpose of serving Soviet policy in the Middle East. For the certain outcome of any Israeli military action will be the consolidation of Soviet gains in the area. Naturally, Israel and the United States have no interest in doing so. Begin's obvious confusion in dealing with the missiles crisis indicates this. Also the demonstrations that took place in Israel in opposition to Begin's policy increase Begin's confusion.

Third, the international situation. The fact that units of the Soviet and U.S. fleets are approaching the area shores has shown the international process of "taking hold" of the crisis. If Washington has not yet been persuaded of the Soviet role in the crisis of the area, this is its problem alone, and it has to deal with it through the meetings that are held between the two parties. The most recent of these was the meeting held between U.S. Secretary of State Gen Alexander Haig and Soviet ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin.

Western diplomatic sources explain the fact that the U.S. president received Prince Turki al-Faysal, the director of Saudi intelligence to be an indication of the utmost importance that the U.S. administration attaches to a peaceful solution to the missiles crisis that would keep the Soviets away.

Despite what U.S. newspapers are publishing about the fact that the Soviets are not helping in finding a solution, negotiations are still continuing.

Increased Dangers

U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger avoided showing fears of the U.S. and Soviet naval presence because "There was no noticeable increase in the number of navy units, but rather a proximity to the East Mediterranean." But Secretary Weinberger explained that the more mobilization there is, the greater are the dangers that could lead to the possibility of a clash. He added, "When there is a dispute of that kind, there is always the possibility that the superpowers will become involved due to the fact that the two superpowers have relations in the area. Nevertheless, the parties that are concerned about a regional war have to take into their consideration the international magnitude of any military step

they might take. But this does not mean so far that a serious dialogue has begun between Moscow and Washington around the political settlement of the Middle East crisis after Camp David, especially since the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai is to take place late in April of next year. At that time there will have to be a return to a formula that differs from that of the Camp David accords. There are two theories about the motive behind such a dialogue. The first states that the fact that the two parties reach the point of confrontation forces them to sit at the negotiating table. This happened in a preliminary way when the ships of the United States and the Soviet fleet stood at anchor on the same shore.

But the second theory states that the superpowers will not sit around a negotiating table until there is a major change in the area or in one of its capitals in favor of the Soviets. This has not happened yet.

At any rate the U.S. administration's refusal to discuss its policy in the area so far favors the second theory.

Does this mean that a regional military confrontation is ultimately unlikely?

It is at any rate unlikely for a short-term solution. Palestinian leader Yasser 'Arafat thinks that there is a substitute confrontation between the Palestinians and the Israelis in south Lebanon. He thinks that this confrontation is saving the Israeli condition from its confusion and making an international confrontation unlikely.

Russians To Enter Mediterranean

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 25-31 may 81 pp 7-9

[Text] After U.S. envoy Philip Habib and Soviet envoy (Giorgi Kirninko) were dispatched to the area, it was the turn of U.S., Soviet and French fleets to play their role. They toured the East Mediterranean, carrying all their gear as well as their reconnaissance, missiles and nuclear equipment.

Despite the denial by the governments in question that the presence of these fleets was in any way related to the existing missiles crisis between Syria and Israel, their presence 50 miles from the Lebanese and Syrian shores--or at a stone's throw from the Israeli shores--underscored the international dimension of the struggle in the Middle East. In the opinion of diplomatic circles the presence of those fleets constituted an international deterrent restraining the "smaller nations" from taking steps that could embarrass "the superpowers" and containing the fires, if there were to be an outbreak of war, so the fires would not spread to the oil wells.

The memories which the area in general and Lebanon in particular have of 1982 do not inspire confidence. The lesson that was learned was that

of 1958 when the Marines came to Lebanon and landed in Beirut, Khildah and al-Mu'amalatayn.

The real reason which led to the arrival of the Sixth Fleet in 1958 was not the situation in Lebanon but rather the 14 July coup in Iraq. The Sixth Fleet was to monitor the expansion of Soviet influence into a country that had been thought to be under U.S. influence. Lebanon's official invitation to the fleet had been made then under a cover used by U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to justify the landing, especially since President Camille Sham'un had requested twice that the fleet come. He had made that request through then Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Charles Malik. The request was granted only on the morning of 14 July.

In 1967 the U.S. fleet sailed towards Sinai, and Israel, under the pretext that it did not know the identity of the ship, attacked the ship U.S. Liberty, killing 34 sailors and wounding 171 others. Israel claimed that it thought the ship was an Egyptian ship because it was close to al-'Arish. But the truth is that Israel did not want to allow any ship to monitor its actions and to record the details of its attack. Therefore, on 8 June 1967 it blew up the ship and those who were on it according to orders from the minister of defense, Moshe Dayan and despite objections from two of his senior aides who thought that the attack on Liberty would be fatal to U.S.-Israeli relations. But this was not the case. Washington was forced to swallow its pride and to relieve Israel of the obligation to pay damages and material damages compensation to those who were killed. All of that was estimated to be 7.5 million dollars. If it had not been for the fact that the U.S. press discussed the subject--and one of such treatments is the book, "Conspiracy of Silence" by Anthony Pearson--the truth about what happened would not have been known.

In the 1973 war the fleets did not come close, but the U.S. reconnaissance airplanes acted and helped Israel pinpoint the weakness in the movements of the Egyptian army. The Deversoir breach occurred, and this diminished Israel's defeat and curbed the victory of the Egyptian forces. (It is being said that Israel threatened the United States that it would use missiles with nuclear warheads if Washington did not comply with its request.)

As for the U.S. fleet. The Soviet fleet has a longer and a more intimate relationship with the Mediterranean. It became acquainted with the Lebanese shores in the 18th century when it was extremely difficult for Russia to achieve the dream of reaching the warm waters and consolidating its position there.

What is established historically is that the Russians have been sailing the Mediterranean since 1770 when the Russian fleet defeated the Ottoman fleet in the Battle of (Tashmah) in the Aegean Sea after early signs of independence from the Ottoman Empire began to appear, as such signs did, with the Mameluke 'Ali Bey in Egypt and Dhahir al-'Umar in Palestine. They called on Empress Catherine for help, and she sent the Russian fleet in

Damietta first and then to the shores of Lebanon after 'Ali Bey was forced to seek refuge there.

It has been said that a Druze prince from Lebanon, Prince Yusuf, negotiated with the Russian admiral, (Spinkof) to save Beirut from the ruler of Acre, Ahmad al-Jazzar.

On 12 August 1773 the Russians attacked Beirut. It did not surrender and remained under siege for 2 months. But the Russians (or the al-Maskub) were able to occupy the city because of their long-range artillery. For 5 months--from October 1773 to February 1774--Beirut was under Russian control. The French consul in Tripoli described that period by saying, "The Russian flag flew over Beirut, and the picture of Empress Catherine hung over the principal gateway to the sea, the Rivoli. Out of respect for her majesty, people would bow their heads [as they passed by], and horsemen would dismount." It is worth mentioning that the French name--Place des Canons--for al-Shuhada' Square or al-Burj is attributed to these long-range guns.

In 1850 Turkish, Russian, British and French fleets attacked the Lebanese shores--Beirut, Juniyah and Jubayl. Ibrahim Pasha was defeated by Sir Charles Napier. It's been said that a U.S. and an Austrian ship did observe the battles but did not participate in them.

For 100 years Russia continued its efforts to occupy Istanbul and to call for the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire. Britain opposed this plan throughout this period because it did not want anyone to compete with it on the seas where it thought itself to be the indisputable master.

8592

CSO: 4304/16

ALTERNATIVE TO CAIRO AGREEMENT CALLED FOR BY JUNBLAT

(P.C.) - AL-MUJARRAB (in Arabic) 30 May 81 p. 14

(Article) Junblat and Salam Call for a Beirut Agreement Instead of the Cairo Agreement")

(Text) Mr. Walid Junblat, chairman of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement called for the need to take action to draw up a new agreement that would regulate the relationship between the Lebanese government and the PLO. [This new agreement] would deal with the Palestinian military and human presence in Lebanon.

Mr. Junblat thinks that what is commonly called the Cairo Agreement, which regulates this relationship, has failed forever. He thinks that conditions, circumstances and interest make it incumbent that a substitute agreement be reached that would take into consideration the variables and developments which were brought forth from 1969, the date the Cairo Agreement was written, until now.

In offering for such an Agreement Mr. Walid Junblat, info. Prime Minister Nouri Bakou who, a few weeks ago, invited Palestinian and Lebanese officials to a round and a responsible dialogue so that an agreement regulating co-existence could be reached. This agreement would be a substitute for the Cairo Agreement, and it would be called the Beirut Agreement. So far these suggestions, as well as similar suggestions which preceded them and which have been called for at length by this or the other faction, are implicitly satisfactory to responsible PLO leaders in the same measure as they are publicly rejected by them on the basis of indisputable political principles in which the Palestinian leadership believes and regarding which it refuses to be lenient.

Although it is in a state of inertia, the Cairo Agreement did not proceed on a course of full implementation since it was drawing despite numerous attempts that were made for that purpose. However, on the view of Palestinians it continues to constitute a major gain that was and achieved for them on the Lebanese scene: it legitimized their presence, making it an indisputable material fact. The Palestinian leadership

implicitly recognizes that the events and the variables that were brought back into the scene from 1969 till now, especially in south Lebanon, have eliminated most of the effects of this agreement and turned a large part of it into lifeless terms that cannot be implemented on the scene.

However, the PLO can under no circumstances officially recognize this fact as valid for the writing of a new agreement before achieving the following:

First, the PLO must be practically assured that the Lebanese lawful government is serious about this subject and that it has an integrated view of what the relationship between the Lebanese state and the PLO should be and, accordingly, what the nature of the Palestinian military and human presence on Lebanese territory should be.

Second, what is more important than texts and agreements in the view of the organization is how a state of relations can be achieved that would end in practice the crisis of confidence between the two parties. It seems that the Palestinians have a view of what is necessary to end this crisis of confidence and to engage in negotiations wherein would prevail an atmosphere of mutual understanding over the necessity of achieving a political and a real agreement on confronting all the difficulties and the complexities that the next stage will bring.

Seeing back now to the notion of proposing the possibility of a Lebanese-Palestinian accord assumes considerable importance, especially since this appeal is being made amidst extremely important circumstances, especially following the recent Syrian initiative to achieve an intra-Lebanese accord. There had been a consensus on the statement that one of the principal arguments of the accord deliberations which were attended by Syria's minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at the office of Lebanon's president was that pertaining to the relationship between the Lebanese government and the Palestinian Resistance. (There was also consensus on the statement, or rather an admission, that without the achievement of a Lebanese-Palestinian accord, there would be no hope at all of achieving an intra-Lebanese accord. A few politicians said that Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam was acknowledging this fact and that he was presenting this view, affirming that Syria's role at a subsequent stage would concentrate on the necessity of achieving a Lebanese-Palestinian accord.

This call is also assuming such major importance now because it is being made in the aftermath of the resolutions that were issued by the meeting of the Arab ministers of foreign affairs in Tunis. These resolutions revived the Arab Follow-Up Committee, one of whose chief functions in the past was regulating the agreements between the Lebanese government and the PLO.

All this was expected and anticipated, but it is now subject to the missiles crisis. It is in the light of whether this crisis will end or will not, in peace that it will become possible to determine the direction in which the intra-Lebanese accord and, accordingly, the Lebanese-Palestinian accord will move.

BRIEFS

AID TO AFRICAN STATES--Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE and Kuwait are to donate a total of \$210 million in emergency relief for seven African states in the Sahel region which have been stricken by drought. The aid was announced at the foreign ministers' meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation in response to a decision to provide urgent assistance to the Gambia, Upper Volta, Guinea, Senegal, Niger, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. The money from the Gulf countries will be used to finance agricultural and pastoral projects. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 23 8 Jun 81 p 3]

CSO: 4300/19

BRIEFS

POLYETHYLENE PLANT--Qatar is to build a factory to produce 70,000 tonnes of high density polyethylene a year, it was announced last week. The contract for the plant, to be built at Qatar's Umm Said industrial zone, is to be awarded shortly and is likely to go to a Japanese firm, OPEC's news agency reported from Doha. OPECNA put the cost of the projected plant at \$46 million. The scheduled start-up date for the plant is 1983. It will use ethylene from Umm Said's existing petrochemical complex as its feedstock. The complex went on stream at the end of last year with a planned capacity of 280,000 tonnes of ethylene a year. Most of Umm Said's ethylene is used to produce low density polyethylene. The decision to build the plant means that the Qatari authorities have been chosen the boldest of three options for handling surplus ethylene. The other choices were to export the ethylene to world markets or to sell it to Charbonnages de France-Chimie, the chemicals subsidiary of France's state-controlled coal company, which has developed close links with Qatar. CDF-Chimie is part-owner and operator of the Umm Said complex and also operates a joint Franco-Qatari petrochemicals venture in France. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 23 8 Jun 81 p 3]

CSO: 4300/19

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBER DISCUSSES ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES, GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN

Paris LE MONDE in French 13 May 81 p 4

[Article by Eric Rouleau: "The Muslim Brotherhood Has Established a 'Global Strategic Revolution' To Overthrow the Regime of President Asad"]

[Text] Interview with a leader of the Brotherhood. Bloody clashes reportedly took place in April at Hama.

The Muslim Brotherhood of Syria, which merged into a single organization at the start of the year, has just drawn up a "general revolutionary strategy" whose objective it is to overthrow the regime of Mr Hafiz al-Asad. Mr Ali Sa'd-al-din Bayanuni, a member of the unified directorate, does not wish to reveal the content of this blueprint but the indications and specific points he mentioned to us during an interview in Paris, where he happens to be spending some time, enable us to detect the broad outlines of this undertaking.

Tall and smooth, elegantly dressed, his salt-and-pepper hair cut short, with a lively gaze behind his gold-rimmed glasses, Mr Bayanuni, 44, a lawyer from Aleppo, is a convinced supporter of the pursuit of the "armed struggle" in spite of his party's "mudjahedin." "At the end of a self-criticism session to which we subjected ourselves last March," he told us, "we decided to cut back on our military operations so long as our resources are not up to the tremendous popular support we are getting; we did that to avoid heavy and useless losses."

That was not the case on 25 April. On that day, according to Mr Bayanuni, the forces of law and order reportedly "massacred some 200-300 male inhabitants of Hama" who were dragged from their homes and who "were shot down before the very eyes of their families." This was the way the regime "revenged itself" for several operations launched 2 days earlier by the muslim mudjahedin against the Ba'athist militia at Homs and Hama, killing "at least 50 men" among the latter.

Popular Uprising

The punitive operation launched on 26 April by the special units of Col 'Ali Haydar and those of the Mukhabarat (secret police) did not remain without response. The Muslim Brotherhood at Hama, weapon in hand, counterattacked and, according to our interview source, killed something like 150 of their adversaries and thus prevented the forces of law and order from entering the city's low-income sections while the

police carried out "summary executions." To support his statements, Mr Bayanuni showed us a list of 180 names of "martyrs."

The muslim leader agreed that "the armed struggle will not be sufficient to overthrow the regime" and in this connection mentioned the possibility of a coup d'Etat fomented by an Alawite faction--a sect to which President Asad and a number of Syrian senior officers belong--against another faction which remained loyal to the chief of state. But Mr Bayanuni emphasized the probability of a "popular uprising similar to the one of the Iranians against the shah" which would be triggered as soon as the organization of the Muslim Brotherhood has been well established in Damascus as well as in Aleppo, Homs, and Hama, among others. "The army must also be ready to follow us," he added.

"Neither on the Right, nor on the Left"

What would happen if a war were to break out between Syria and Israel? "That would precipitate the triggering of the last phase of the overall revolution," Mr Bayanuni replied spontaneously after getting himself under control again: "But there is not going to be any war because the Ba'athist regime has no intention of fighting." As we know, the Muslim Brotherhood is against any compromise which would "not restore all of Palestine to the Palestinians" and even considers the PLO of Mr Yasser Arafat as being "under foreign influence"--according to the terms used by our interview subject.

How come the program of the Muslim Brotherhood, its publications and tracts, exclusively attack the USSR and spare the United States, which throughout the Islamic world is considered the main supporter of Israel? "We do not want to get into a hassle with any country," replied Mr. Bayanuni. "We attack the USSR because it is the ally of the Asad regime and because it tries to spread Marxism, and anti-Islamic doctrine. The United States on the other hand does not have a clear ideology and capitalism, which is not hostile to Islam, has as many positive as negative aspects."

Mr Bayanuni furthermore indicated that after the Muslim Brotherhood might possibly come to power, the freedom to establish parties would not be extended to Marxist parties or groupings, even those which are currently hostile to the Ba'athist regime. The Communist Party of Mr Khaled Bakdash is already the target of the mudjahedin who, the Muslim leader recalled, have "killed two members of that party's Central Committee at Aleppo."

How could one define the movement of the Muslim Brotherhood? Is it right-wing or left-wing or anti-imperialist? "The word imperialism does not show up in our vocabulary," replies Mr Bayanuni, "and Islam is a doctrine which is neither on the right, nor on the left."

5058
CSO:4319/4

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

July 7, 1981